

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 519

(Delegate Schindler, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Public Health - Hospitals - Parking for Patients

This bill requires each hospital in the State to provide parking at no cost to each inpatient for the duration of the inpatient's admission and each outpatient attending a scheduled medical appointment for the duration of the appointment. Each hospital must display signage at each public entrance and parking facility informing inpatients and outpatients of the availability of parking at no cost. The bill's requirements apply to each parking facility owned, operated, or leased by the hospital at which the inpatient or outpatient is receiving services.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local governmental operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, the cost of parking at hospitals in the State is not regulated.

"Hospital" means an institution that (1) has a group of at least five physicians who are organized as a medical staff for the institution; (2) maintains facilities to provide, under the supervision of the medical staff, diagnostic and treatment services for two or more unrelated individuals; (3) admits or retains the individuals for overnight care; and (4) if located outside the State, provides outpatient services to patients in facilities located in State.

Additional Comments: The Maryland Department of Health advises that facilities operated by the department currently provide free parking. Several hospitals in the State, particularly those in urban locations, require patients to pay for parking.

The University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) is a private, nonprofit corporation created in 1984 to provide governance and management over the operation of the formerly State-run University of Maryland Hospital. UMMS advises that providing free parking to patients will have a significant indeterminate impact (greater than \$1.0 million annually) beginning in fiscal 2026. While UMMS is not solely State funded, the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center (located in Baltimore City and operated by UMMS) receives funds through the Emergency Medical System Operations Fund.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University of Maryland Medical System; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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km/jc

Analysis by: Amberly E. Holcomb

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510